

# Families Teach Love

## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** God, our Father, help us to live as your people.

“How good and how pleasant it is,  
when brothers dwell together as one!” **Psalm 133:1**

**All:** God, you give us our families to teach us about you.  
Help us to listen, learn, and follow your ways. Amen.

## God's Word

Jesus' Mother and others from his family came to see him but could not get near him because of the crowd. Someone told him, “Your family is outside and they want to see you.” Jesus said, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it.” **Based on Luke 8:19-21**

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### What Do You Wonder?

- How are you a part of Jesus' family?
- Does God really care if you obey your parents?

# A Model for Our Families

What does Mary teach us about being part of a family?

## Catholic Faith Words

**Visitation** the name of Mary's visit to Elizabeth before Jesus was born

**Mary** the Mother of Jesus, the Mother of God. She is also called "Our Lady" because she is our Mother and the Mother of the Church.

In our families, we learn to care about and respect each other. We learn how important it is to listen to each other and be there when someone needs help. We share our lives. This story from the Bible, called the **Visitation**, tells us about a visit between **Mary** and her cousin Elizabeth.

## God's Word

### Mary Visits Elizabeth

Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, was happy and surprised when Mary visited. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth said to Mary,

"Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

Elizabeth's greeting made Mary happy. She answered, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior."

Based on Luke 1:39-47



## The Greatest Mother

Like the Angel Gabriel who said to Mary, “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you,” Elizabeth knew how special Mary was (Luke 1:28). As Catholics, we have always recognized Mary as a special member of God’s family and the greatest Saint. She perfectly lived God’s plan for her. We honor Mary as the Mother of God and our Mother. One way we do this is when we pray the Hail Mary.

➔ How can we honor Mary?



Complete the prayer and then pray it together as a group

### The Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of \_\_\_\_\_,  
the Lord is with thee.

\_\_\_\_\_ art thou among women

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, \_\_\_\_\_

Holy Mary, \_\_\_\_\_ of God,  
pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



### Share Your Faith

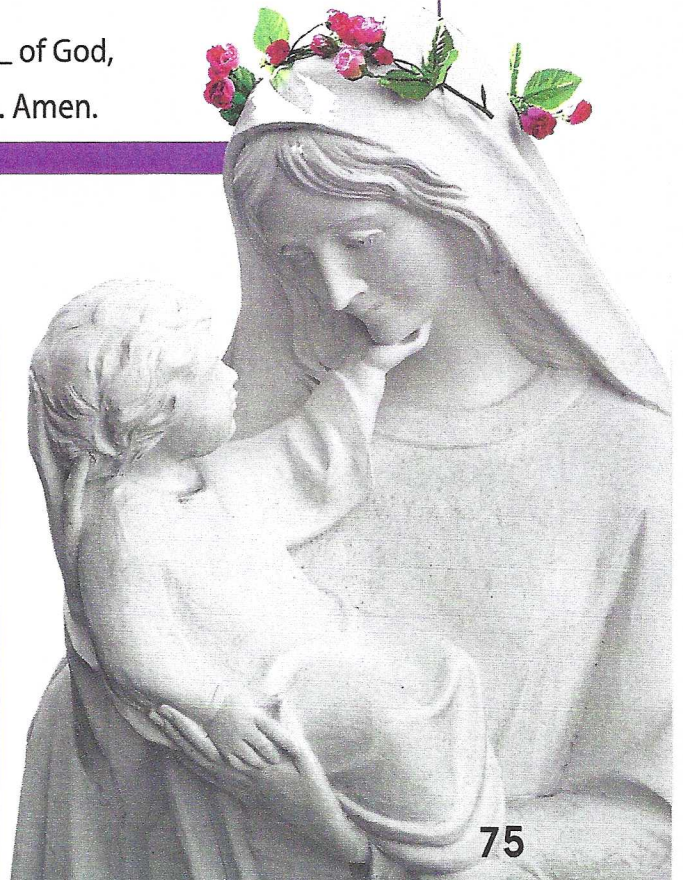
**Think** Write one way your family members love and care for one another.

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**Share** with a partner.



# The Church of the Home

How can our families help to show us God's love?

## Catholic Faith Words

**domestic Church** a name for the Catholic family, because it is the community of Christians in the home. God made the family to be the first place we learn about loving others and following Christ.

In the story of the Visitation, Mary and Elizabeth helped us see how family members' actions show love. Your family members may show their love in actions, in words, or both.

You first learn about God's love for you from your family. Your family also teaches you how to love God and others.

You learn the basics of healthy living from your family. They teach you important safety rules. You may learn how to care for pets or do other chores.

Your family helps you learn prayers, such as the blessing before meals, the Lord's Prayer, and the Hail Mary. Your family introduces you to the Catholic Church. If you are baptized, you are already a member of this special family of God. The Church builds on what you have learned in your home. For this reason, the family is called the "**domestic Church,**" or the Church of the home.



## Communities of Love

The Church of the home can be a special sign that shows others how the three Persons of the Holy Trinity love one another. Your family is a sign of this love when you live together in faith, hope, and love.

God shares his authority with parents. He invites them to love and care for you just as he does. God wants you to respect your parents and others who care for you. This includes teachers and community officials. Their authority comes from God, too.

## God Loves Everyone

Sometimes members of families may be busy or tired. They may let you down. They are still loved by God, just as you are. It is important to treat the members of your family with love and respect and to pray for them.



Underline how your family is a sign of the love of the Holy Trinity.

## Connect Your Faith

**Make a Caring Chart** What words and actions show love in each of these situations? Write your ideas in each column.

**The Visitation**

**My Family Life**

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# Our Catholic Life

How do you show respect for God and others?

God cares for you more than anyone else can. He showed that he cares about you by giving you life. God also gave you a family and the Church to guide you. He wants you to treat your family members with respect because they are a gift.



Write one more way you can show respect for God and one more way you can show respect for others.

## Respect

### Respect for Others

You can show respect for God by

- following the Ten Commandments.
- teaching others about God.
- taking part in Mass.
- helping your Church community.

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You show respect

- for family members by treating them with love and care.
- for your friends by taking turns and sharing your games.
- for your teachers by doing your assignments and by being polite.
- for your classmates by listening when they talk and by inviting them into your games.

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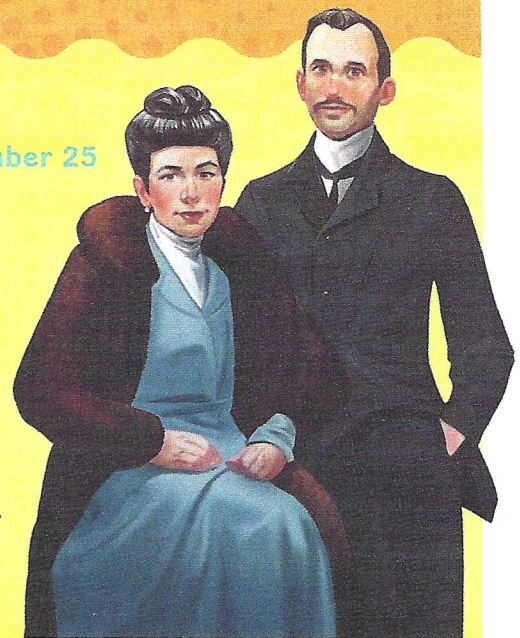
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# People of Faith

**Blessed Luigi Beltrame Quattrocchi, 1880–1951  
and Blessed Maria Corsini, 1884–1965**

November 25

Blessed Luigi and Maria were a married couple. They lived in Rome, Italy. Luigi was a lawyer. Maria was a writer and a catechist. They had four children whom they loved very much. The family had a lot of fun together, but they always made time for prayer and helping other people. During World War II, they let people who had lost their homes stay with them. They showed the love of Jesus to everyone they met. Blessed Luigi and Maria help us see how our homes and families can be a domestic Church.



**Discuss:** How does your family show the love of Jesus?



Learn more about  
Blessed Luigi and Maria  
at [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)

## Live Your Faith

**Create a Comic Strip** Draw a comic strip about a family whose members use words and actions to show that they care for one another.



## Let Us Pray

# Prayer of Petition

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Leader:** Dear God, you give us families to love and guide us. With your help, we will try to show them our love and care.

**Reader 1:** When we are together,

**All:** Help us show love and care.

**Reader 2:** When family members are sad,

**All:** Help us show love and care.

**Reader 3:** When we are full of energy and ideas,

**All:** Help us show love and care.

**Reader 4:** When we are tired and grouchy,

**All:** Help us show love and care.

**Leader:** Dear God, thank you for caring families.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Bow your heads as the leader prays.

**All:** Amen.



Sing "The Family of God"  
We gather together to celebrate family.  
Our Church is the Family of God.  
Sharing together the blessing of Jesus,  
the Family of God.

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# FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explores Mary as a model for family living and how families show love and respect and the role of the family as the domestic Church.

### God's Word



Read **Luke 8:19-21** and talk about how each of you hear God's Word and try to live by it.

### Catholics Believe

- Mary is a special member of God's family and the greatest Saint.
- The family home is called the "domestic Church."

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1657, 1666 at [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child met Blessed Luigi Beltrame Quattrocchi and Blessed Maria Corsini, the first married couple to be beatified together.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

### How They Understand the Family as Domestic Church

A family's professed beliefs, and especially their example, are very important and powerful forces that shape the faith of children. It's important that the two match as much as reasonably possible, because your child is now at the age when he or she can notice discrepancies between words and actions.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

How do electronic devices keep your family from being present to each other?

When we are checking emails, texting, talking on the phone, and playing games on our tablet with no boundaries, sacred family time starts to disappear. Being in the same room is not enough. Being present to one another is the first obligation and privilege of family life. "When family members pray together, engage in lifelong learning, forgive one another, [and] serve each other... they help each other live the faith and grow in faith" (*USCCA, p. 376*).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to name someone in his or her life, other than a parent, who helps him/her live a holy life?
- Talk about the different ways you can treat the members of your family with love and respect.

## LET'S PRAY >>>



Heavenly Father, like Blessed Luigi and Blessed Maria, help us serve you and one another through a holy family life. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

# Chapter 3 Review

**A Work with Words** Complete each sentence with the correct word or words from the Word Bank.

1. You can show \_\_\_\_\_ for God by following the Ten Commandments.
2. Elizabeth's words to Mary are found in the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is a name for the Catholic family and the first place we learn about God.
4. Families are a sign of God's \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The Church wants you to respect \_\_\_\_\_.

## Word Bank

.....  
domestic  
Church

authority

respect

love

Hail Mary

**B Check Understanding** Write the letter T if the sentence is TRUE. Write the letter F if the sentence is FALSE.

6. Mary's visit to Elizabeth is called the Holy Greeting.
7. God gives parents and teachers the authority to love and care for you.
8. Family members show one another care by giving gifts and money.

Write responses on the lines below.

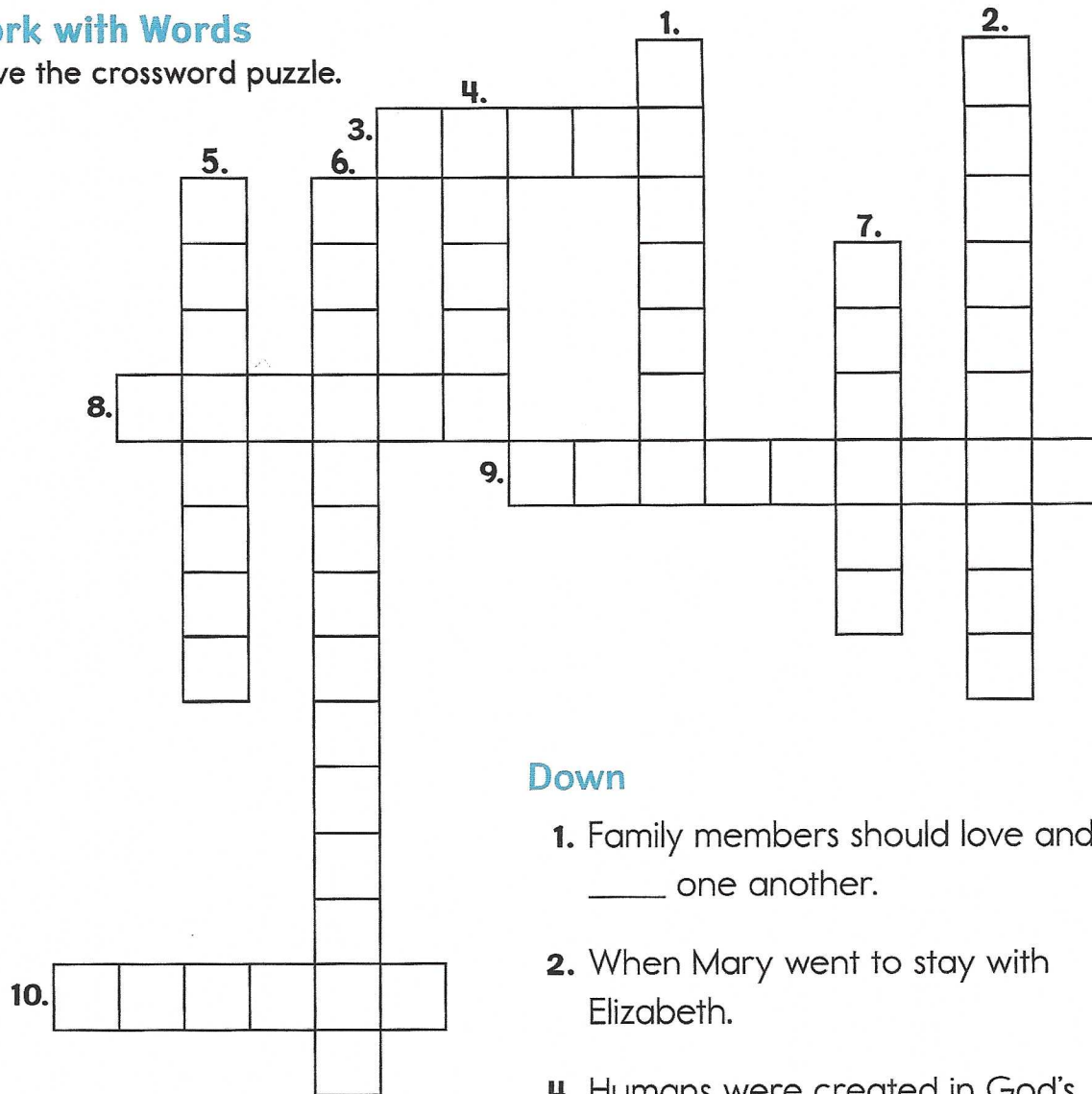
9. Why should you respect God and your family members?  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. How do you show respect for your family members?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## A Work with Words

Solve the crossword puzzle.



### Down

1. Family members should love and \_\_\_\_ one another.
2. When Mary went to stay with Elizabeth.
4. Humans were created in God's \_\_\_\_.
5. The \_\_\_\_ Church is the community of Christians in the home.
6. A duty or job that you are trusted to do.
7. Community of all baptized people who believe in God and follow Jesus.

### Across

3. The Word of God written in human words.
8. A name for the Church is the \_\_\_\_ of God.
9. God gives this to parents and those who care for you.
10. The Holy Trinity worked as one to \_\_\_\_ the world.

## Unit Review

- B Check Understanding** Match each description in Column A with the correct term in Column B.

## Column A

11. We call God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit this
12. The most blessed of all creatures
13. A group of people who come together for a shared purpose
14. All creation is this
15. The Church is gathered in his name

## Column B

- humans
- Holy Trinity
- good
- Jesus Christ
- community

- C Make Connections** Name five ways you can show respect for God.

16. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
18. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_